

P405, 421/CP-86-55; P-520, 421/CP-86-537; P-421, 407/CP-87-536;  
P-407, 421, 430, 405, 426/CI-90-440; P-430, 421/CP-86-5; P-407,  
421, 430, 405, 426/CP-88-839; P-430, 421, 407, 405, 426/CI-90-  
441; P-430, 421, 407, 405, 426/CI-90-442 ORDER CERTIFYING  
ELECTION RESULTS, DIRECTING INSTALLATION OF EXTENDED AREA SERVICE  
IN CERTAIN EXCHANGES, REQUIRING IMPLEMENTATION PLANS, AND CLOSING  
CERTAIN DOCKETS

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Darrel L. Peterson  
Cynthia A. Kitlinski  
Dee Knaak  
Norma McKanna  
Patrice M. Vick

Chair  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner  
Commissioner

In the Matter of the Petition of  
Certain Subscribers in the Belle  
Plaine Exchange for Extended  
Area Service to the  
Minneapolis/St. Paul  
Metropolitan Calling Area  
P-405, 421/CP-86-55

In the Matter of the Petition of  
Certain Subscribers in the New  
Prague Exchange for Extended  
Area Service to the  
Minneapolis/St. Paul  
Metropolitan Calling Area  
P-520, 421/CP-86-537

In the Matter of the Petition of  
Certain Subscribers in the  
Watertown Exchange for Extended  
Area Service to the  
Minneapolis/St. Paul  
Metropolitan Calling Area  
P-421, 407/CP-87-536

In the Matter of a Commission  
Initiated Investigation into  
Extended Area Service Between  
New Germany and the  
Minneapolis/St. Paul  
Metropolitan Calling Area  
P-407, 421, 430, 405, 426/CI-90-  
440

In the Matter of the Petition of  
Certain Subscribers in the  
Waconia Exchange for Extended  
Area Service to the  
Minneapolis/St. Paul  
Metropolitan Calling Area  
P-430, 421/CP-86-5

In the Matter of the Petition  
for Extended Area Service from  
Mayer to the Minneapolis/St.  
Paul Metropolitan Calling Area  
P-407, 421, 430, 405, 426/CP-88-  
839

In the Matter of a Commission  
Investigation into Extended Area  
Service Between Cologne and the  
Minneapolis/St. Paul  
Metropolitan Calling Area  
P-430, 421, 407, 405, 426/CI-90-  
441

In the Matter of a Commission  
Investigation into Extended Area  
Service Between Norwood and the  
Minneapolis/St. Paul  
Metropolitan Calling Area  
P-430, 421, 407, 405, 426/CI-90-  
442

ISSUE DATE: June 26, 1991

ORDER CERTIFYING ELECTION  
RESULTS, DIRECTING INSTALLATION  
OF EXTENDED AREA SERVICE IN  
CERTAIN EXCHANGES, REQUIRING  
IMPLEMENTATION PLANS, AND  
CLOSING CERTAIN DOCKETS

### PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On January 25, 1991, the Commission issued its ORDER ADOPTING GUIDELINES FOR EXTENDED AREA SERVICE RATES FOR THE BELLE PLAINE, NEW PRAGUE, WATERTOWN AND NEW GERMANY EXCHANGES AND VARYING TIME FOR FILING FOR RECONSIDERATION.

On February 1, 1991, the Commission issued a similar order regarding the Waconia, Mayer, Cologne and Norwood exchanges.

On February 4, 1991, the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) filed a Request for Reconsideration of the Commission's January 25, 1991 Order.

On February 5, 1991, Contel of Minnesota, Inc. (Contel) filed a Petition for Reconsideration and Clarification of the Commission's January 25, 1991 Order.

On February 11, 1991, the Department filed a request for Reconsideration and Clarification and Contel filed a Petition for Reconsideration and Clarification of the Commission's February 1, 1991 Order.

On February 12, 1991, Contel filed reply comments, the Department filed Tables of Final EAS Rates for the Petitioning Exchanges Submitted by the Affected Telephone Companies, and Eckles Telephone Company (Eckles) filed comments in response to the rates for its New Prague exchange.

On February 14, 1991, US West Communications, Inc. (USWC) filed its Reply to the Department's Request for Reconsideration.

On March 8, 1991, the Commission issued its ORDER AFTER RECONSIDERATION OF THE COMMISSION'S JANUARY 25 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1991 ORDERS AND ORDER ESTABLISHING RATES. In this Order, the Commission adopted EAS rate additives to be used for polling in the Belle Plaine, New Prague, Watertown, New Germany, Waconia, Mayer, Cologne, and Norwood exchanges.

Between April 1 and May 31, 1991, the Commission polled subscribers in the Belle Plaine, New Prague, Watertown, New Germany, Waconia, Mayer, Cologne, and Norwood exchanges to determine the level of support among subscribers for the proposed EAS routes.

On June 19, 1991, the Commission met to consider the results of this polling.

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **BACKGROUND**

The new extended area service (EAS) statute<sup>1</sup> divided telephone exchanges into two groups: metropolitan area exchanges (i.e. those served by a central office located within the seven county metropolitan area<sup>2</sup>) and non-metropolitan area exchanges. Section 2 of the new EAS statute required the Commission to undertake a project to expand the metropolitan extended area service local calling area to include each metro area exchange and to conclude that project by July 1, 1991.

### **METROPOLITAN EAS EXPANSION PROJECT**

Accordingly, the Commission undertook an expansion project which grouped the eight metropolitan exchanges that were not part of the metropolitan calling area (MCA) for thorough but expedited treatment. In this Order covering the eight metropolitan expansion project exchanges the Commission completes the MCA expansion project within the timeframe required by Section 2.

For the metropolitan expansion exchanges, the statute does not require the Commission to make findings of adjacency or adequate traffic, as it does in the case of non-metropolitan exchanges. Instead, it merely requires the Commission to determine the appropriate rates for EAS for these exchanges and then poll subscribers within each exchange to determine whether more than 50% of those responding to the poll desire EAS.

### **COMMISSION ACTION**

#### **1. Certification of Polling Results**

In its March 8, 1991 Order, the Commission determined appropriate EAS polling rates for each of these exchanges and proceeded to poll the subscribers. The percentages of those voting who favored inclusion in the MCA are, by exchange, as follows:

Belle Plaine:	75.2%
Cologne:	74.7%
Waconia:	73.0%
New Prague:	71.2%
Norwood:	47.5%
Mayer:	41.9%
Watertown:	39.3%
New Germany:	33.8%

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<sup>1</sup> 1990 Minn. Laws Chapter 513.

<sup>2</sup> Section 2 of the new EAS statute defines the "metropolitan area" as consisting of the following counties: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington.

## 2. Installation of EAS Required

Since a majority of the subscribers responding to the poll in the Belle Plaine, Cologne, Waconia and New Prague exchanges support their respective EAS routes, the Commission will require that the affected telephone companies provide EAS between those exchanges and the MCA and proceed to monitor the implementation of EAS for those exchanges.

## 3. Dockets Closed

A majority of responding subscribers in the Norwood, Mayer, Watertown, and New Germany exchanges, however, did not support inclusion of their exchanges in the MCA. Consequently, the statutory requirement for adopting EAS for those exchanges has not been met. Therefore, after directing the telephone companies to inform their subscribers in these exchanges of the results of the polling, the Commission will simply close those dockets and proceed no further.

## 4. Rate Additives for Existing MCA to be Established

Rates for subscribers in the existing MCA have not yet been finally approved by the Commission because until now it was unknown which, if any, of the eight exchanges would be included in the MCA. Now that the polling results are known, the Commission will direct the Minnesota Department of Public Service (the Department) to file proposed rate increases for subscribers in the existing MCA which are due to the provision of EAS to Belle Plaine, Cologne, Waconia and New Prague. The rates proposed by the Department will comply with the guidelines established for such rates in the Commission's Orders in this matter dated January 25 and February 1, 1991.

## 5. Low Cost Alternative Encouraged

The Commission is pleased to have played a role in bringing EAS to exchanges where that service was supported by a majority of its subscribers. However, the Commission is also mindful that among the minority of subscribers who did not support EAS there may be many for whom the increased EAS rates will be a burden. In light of its concern for maintenance of universal service and affordable rates, the Commission encourages the local telephone companies serving those exchanges to develop a low cost local telephone service that can serve as an alternative to EAS.

### ORDER

1. The polling results set forth in the text of this Order are certified as true and correct.
2. The local exchange telephone companies providing service to the Belle Plaine, Cologne, Waconia and New Prague exchanges and to the existing Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan calling area (MCA) shall make the necessary changes to include these

- four exchanges in the MCA.
3. The local exchange telephone companies providing service to these four exchanges (Belle Plaine, Cologne, Waconia and New Prague) and the existing MCA shall file implementation plans and schedules with the Commission within 60 days of the issue date of this Order. In addition, the companies shall file updated implementation schedules with the Commission every 90 days thereafter.
  4. The local exchange telephone companies providing service to these four exchanges (Belle Plaine, Cologne, Waconia and New Prague) shall notify their subscribers of the polling results and implementation plans through a bill insert which shall be approved by the Commission or its staff prior to distribution and included in the earliest possible billing cycle.
  5. The local exchange telephone companies providing service to these four exchanges (Belle Plaine, Cologne, Waconia and New Prague) shall notify their subscribers in these exchanges of the change in service and the associated rate increase through a bill insert which shall be approved by the Commission or its staff and included in the companies' billing cycles during the month prior to the commencement of the extended area service (EAS).
  6. The local exchange telephone companies providing service to these four exchanges (Belle Plaine, Cologne, Waconia and New Prague) shall file with the Department revised tariff pages to reflect the inclusion of the Belle Plaine, Cologne, Waconia and New Prague exchanges in the MCA at least ten days prior to the commencement of the EAS.
  8. The EAS dockets for each of the following exchanges shall be closed. Norwood: P-430, 421, 407, 405, 426/CI-90-442; Mayer: P-407, 421, 430, 405, 426/CP-88-839; Watertown: P-421, 407/CP-87-536; and New Germany: P-407, 421, 430, 405, 426/CI-90-440.
  9. The local exchange telephone companies serving the Mayer, New Germany, Norwood and Watertown exchanges shall notify their subscribers of the polling results through a bill insert approved by the Commission or its staff prior to distribution and included in the earliest possible billing cycle.
  10. Within 30 days of the date of this Order, the Department shall file proposed rates for existing MCA subscribers for EAS to Belle Plaine, Cologne, Watertown and New Prague. Interested parties shall have 20 days to file comments.
  11. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Richard R. Lancaster  
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

